Agricultural Production in Tamil Nadu

2057. SHRI N. R. GOVINDRAJAR:

SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present trend of agricultural production in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the State is self-reliant in agricultural production and whether all the necessary facilities are provided to this State by Government; and

(c) if so, the extent to which assistance can be given to the farmers of Tamil Nadu under the new agriculture policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The trends in agriculture production may be seen from the figures of production of foodgrains, oilseeds, cotton and sugarcane in Tamil Nadu during the years 1999-2000 to 2004-05, which are given below:

(Lakh tonnes)

Year	Foodgrains	Oilseeds	Cotton#	Sugarca
1999-2000	89.69	14.81	3.40	342.85
2001-01	86.17	14.40	3.17	331.88
2001-02	77.32	13.13	3.26	326.20
2002-03	44.42	7.60	0.84	241.65
2003-04	44.59	10.00	1.80	197.14
2004-05*	66.73	13.20	2.18	233.96

(b) and (c) The High Level Committee on Long-Term Grain Policy set up by the Department of Food and Public Distribution in its report (July 2002) assessed the State-wise output and consumption of major cereals, namely, rice and wheat. According to this assessment, net output of rice in Tamil Nadu in 1999-2000 was 6953 thousand tonnes compared with consumption of 6955 thousand tonnes. As regards wheat, Tamil Nadu's production was zero compared with consumption of 430 thousand tonnes. As regards self-reliance, the decline in production

Lakh bales of 170 Kgs. each

* 4th Advance Estimates released on 06.07.2005

since 1999-2000 in major crops has been a matter of concern. However, the declining trend was significantly reversed in 2004-05. The thrust of agriculture policy continues to be on schemes and programmes designed to raise production and productivity in agriculture through transfer of improved technology based on field demonstrations, training of farmers, supply of quality inputs, improvement in irrigation facilities, pest control measures etc. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, Macro Management, was evolved by integrating 27 schemes. Under this scheme, which is designed to supplement/complement efforts put in by States, there is flexibility to develop and pursue activities through Work Plans based on regional priorities. The approved pattern of assistance under the scheme is in the ratio of 90:10 for the Centre and States except in the case on North-Eastem States, who are given 100 per cent. Central assistance. Subsidy is available for various components like seeds, implements, etc. Subject to the limit that the amount of subsidy per farmer or per activity should not exceed 25 per cent, of the cost, or the present subsidy level, which ever is lower.

Promoting inland fisheries in Tamil Nadu

2058. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote inland fisheries in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard during the last two years; and

(c) the Central assistance sanctioned to the State for the purpose during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of inland Fisheries and Aquaculture. The scheme is having six components, namely, development of freshwater aquaculture, development of brackish water aquaculture, development of cold water fisheries, development of waterlogged areas, productive utilization of saline/alkaline soils for aquaculture and inland capture fisheries (reservoirs/rivers etc.). The above scheme is being implemented by the State/UT Governments. Under the scheme, expenditure on